



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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Environmental Notification

DEQ To Conduct Water Surveys on Lower Grand and Belle River

(Baton Rouge) - - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will be installing electronic monitoring equipment that will be utilized in conjunction with a water sampling survey on lower Grand and Belle River, beginning at the Bayou Pigeon Bridge to the top of Lake Palourde. These water bodies are located in the Terrebonne Basin, north of Morgan City. The Parishes include Iberville, Assumption, Iberia and St. Martin. The surveys are conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to restore and protect the waterbodies. The surveys will begin Tuesday, September 23, 2003 and end Thursday, September 25, 2003.

The equipment will be mounted on white PVC poles or buoys. Citizens are asked not to tamper with the equipment. During the survey, a bright red, non-toxic dye will be injected into the water around the Bayou Pigeon Bridge. Citizens who notice the red coloration of the water should not be alarmed. The waterbody will return to its normal state by the end of the day. The dye is used to determine flow and distribution patterns of the bayou. These patterns are used to establish sampling points for the survey and to aid in the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be released into a waterbody without causing it to become impaired and/or violate state water quality standards. TMDLs are used as a basis for establishing wastewater discharge limits. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the bayou that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water.

For further information about the TMDL program and the watershed sampling survey, please contact Kirk Manuel with DEQ at (225) 219-3513 or visit the website at www.deq.state.la.us/technology/tmdl.